

TOWN OF HINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Cable TV Advisory Committee

BY-LAWS OF THE COMMITTEE

(revised March 2016)

I. NAME

The name of the Committee shall be "The Hingham Cable TV Advisory Committee."

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the committee is to:

1. Monitor the progress and operation of the Town's cable TV providers for compliance with the terms of the providers' license agreements with the Town.
2. Monitor the expenditures of any monies provided to the Town by cable franchisees.
3. Advise the Board of Selectmen on the progress and operation of Hingham Access and Media, Inc. ("H-CAM") with respect to compliance with the terms of its agreement(s) with the Town.
4. Advise the Board of Selectmen with respect to H-CAM's operation of the Town's Government and Educational Access cable TV stations.
5. Carry out any tasks delegated to it by the Board of Selectmen.
6. Advise and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen (the Issuing Authority) in cable TV matters.

III. BACKGROUND

The Board of Selectmen appointed an original committee of nine in September, 1981 to research, study and advise them regarding the establishment of a cable television system in the Town of Hingham. After one year of study, the committee recommended that the Town proceed

with the Cable TV franchising process. It was begun in 1982 and completed in June 1983, according to guidelines formulated by the Massachusetts Cable Television Commission. A fifteen-year cable license was awarded by the Board of Selectmen to American Cablesystems on August 14, 1984. The license was transferred from American Cablesystems to MediaOne of Massachusetts, Inc. In August 1999, a ten-year renewal license was awarded by the Town to MediaOne. Comcast later succeeded MediaOne as the licensee.

In September, 2006, the committee began work on the ascertainment for the renewal of the 1999 Comcast license. Shortly thereafter, the committee began negotiations with Verizon for a competing cable license. In April 2008, the Town awarded a ten-year cable TV license to Verizon. A ten-year renewal license was granted to Comcast in August 2009. As part of these licenses, Verizon agreed to provide the Town \$400,000 over a seven year period and Comcast agreed to provide the Town \$200,000 for the Town to use for establishing and running Public, Educational, and Government ("PEG") Access cable TV stations. Under both licenses, 4.2 percent of the companies' cable revenues in the Town were to be provided to the Town to operate the PEG Access stations over the terms of the licenses.

In 2011 the Board of Selectmen established H-CAM, a non-profit corporation, to operate the Public Access cable television station in Hingham. In 2012, the Board of Selectmen engaged H-CAM to operate the Government Access cable television station, and in 2013, it delegated to H-CAM the operation of the Educational Access cable television station.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

There shall be no fewer than five (5) and no more than nine (9) committee members, all appointed by the Board of Selectmen. One of the committee members shall be the official representative of the school department. In addition to the appointed committee members, the Executive Director of

H-CAM (or other H-CAM representative) shall be a non-voting member of the committee.

The term of office for each committee member shall be three years and members may serve any number of terms. Because of the expertise gained by committee members through their service on the committee, and because of the importance to the Town of continuing to benefit from this expertise, members usually will be reappointed if willing to continue to serve. In the case of a resignation of a committee member before the end of his or her term, the Board of Selectmen will appoint a new member to serve for the balance of the unexpired term.

V. OFFICERS

The officers of this committee shall consist of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary. They shall be elected by the committee for a term of two years, beginning in January, and may be re-elected for any number of terms. In the case of a resignation of an officer before the end of his or her term, the committee shall elect a replacement to serve for the balance of the unexpired term.

VI. MEETINGS

Meetings shall be held as needed, but at least quarterly, as called by the Chairman or by a majority of the members. All meetings are open to the public and shall be posted at least 48 hours in advance at the Town Office Building. Minutes of meetings shall be kept by the Secretary and shall be provided to the Town Clerk after approval by the committee

A quorum for any meeting of the committee shall be a majority of the current voting members.

VII. MAILING ADDRESS

The mailing address of the committee shall be the office of the Board of Selectmen.

VIII. AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be altered, amended, or repealed at any meeting of the members at which a quorum is present by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, subject to approval by the Board of Selectmen.

Adopted January 4, 1988

Revised March 9, 2016; approved by Board of Selectmen _____, 2016.